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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,341	04/05/2001	Joseph L. Burquist	10004362-1	5252

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2624

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/828,341	BURQUIST ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thierry L. Pham	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 10/24/05.
- Claims 1-35 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 10-21, 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moscato et al (US 6335978), and in view of Manchala et al (US 6088119).

Regarding claim 1, Moscato discloses a system (system 10 for verifying document, fig. 1) for verifying a document comprising:

- first means (RIP 11 for providing image data 13, fig. 1) for providing a first electronic image (original image 13, fig. 1) of a document;
- second means (imaging device 15, fig. 1) for providing a second electronic image (scanned copy of printed image 16, fig. 1) of a document, said second electronic image being a scanned copy (scanned copy image 21 is a printed version of image data 13, fig. 2) of a printed version of said first electronic image; and
- third means (comparison device 12 for comparing original image 13 and printed image 21, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 35-65) for comparing said first and second electronic images and providing an output (output response 22 as shown in fig. 1, col. 3, lines 35-65) response thereto, wherein said output signifies whether said printed version of said first electronic image is a successful print (verifying/analyzing any discrepancy to determine whether printed version of original image is successful print, col. 2, lines 4-15).

However, Moscato fails to teach and/or suggest a prohibition of additional printed version from being produced if said output is signified to be a successful print.

Manchala, in the same field of endeavor for printing, teaches a prohibition of additional printed version from being produced if said output is signified to be a successful print (reprinting is prohibited if the first printed check is successful printed, col. 2, lines 30 to col. 3, lines 35 and col. 5, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify printing system of Moscato to include a prohibition unit/flag to prevent printing of additional copy of successful printed image as taught by Manchala because of a following reason: (●) to prevent unauthorized reprinting of additional checks (col. 3, lines 15-18 and lines 62-63); (●) to prohibit reprinting of an additional documents (e.g. movie tickets, checks, stamps, and etc) that users/operators are not entitled to.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Moscato with Manchala to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Moscato further discloses the invention of claim 1 wherein said second image is derived from said first image (image 21 is derived from original image 13 via printer 15, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 35-65).

Regarding claim 3, Moscato further discloses the invention of claim 1 wherein said second means includes a scanner (scanner 20, fig. 1, and scanner 20 can also be incorporated within printer 15, fig. 3).

Regarding claim 4, Moscato further discloses the invention of claim 3 wherein said second means includes a printer (printer 15, figs. 1 and 3).

Regarding claim 5, Moscato further discloses the invention of claim 4 wherein said scanner (scanner 20, fig. 1, and scanner 20 can also be incorporated within printer 15, fig. 3) is mounted to scan a document printed by said printer to provide said second image.

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Regarding claim 10, Manchala further teaches the invention 5 further including means for detecting a print restriction (no-print restriction flag, col. 3, lines 30-35) with respect to said first image.

Regarding claim 11, Manchala further teaches the invention of claim 10 further including means responsive to said print restriction and said third means for disabling a second print of (disabling reprinting, col. 3, lines 60-65) said document.

Regarding claim 12, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 1 wherein said first means includes a personal computer (RIP 11 or XL Data system 26, fig. 1-2 respectively).

Regarding claim 13, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 12 wherein said first image is obtained from a network (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 14, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 13 wherein said network is the Internet (providing images via Internet is well known).

Regarding claims 15-17, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 1 wherein said third means include software stored on a computer readable medium (comparison device 12, fig. 1, and obviously, comparison device 12 includes a computer instruction program for comparing original image with printed image, for example, OCR software).

Regarding claims 18-19, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 1 wherein said third means includes means for converting said first image to text (comparison device 12, fig. 1, and obviously, comparison device 12 includes a computer instruction program for comparing original image with printed image, for example, OCR software).

Regarding claim 20, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 19 wherein said third means includes means for comparing the text representing said first image to said text representing said second image (OCR software for comparing texts are well known and widely available).

Regarding claim 21, Moscato further discloses a system (system 10 for verifying document, fig. 1) for verifying a printed document comprising:

- a computer (RIP 11 for providing image data, fig. 1) for providing a first electronic image (original image 13, fig. 1) of a document;
- a printer (imaging device 15, fig. 1) coupled to said computer;
- a scanner (scanner 20, fig. 1) adapted to scan a document printed by said printer to provide a second electronic image (printed image 21, fig. 1) of said document, said second electronic image being a scanned copy of a printed version of said first electronic image; and
- software (comparison device 12, fig. 1, and obviously, comparison device 12 includes a computer instruction program for comparing original image with printed image, for example, OCR software) for comparing said first and second electronic images (comparison device 12 for comparing original image 13 and printed image 21, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 35-65) and providing an output response thereto (output response 22 as shown in fig. 1, col. 3, lines 35-65), wherein said output signifies whether said printed version of said first electronic image is a successful print (verifying/analyzing any discrepancy to determine whether printed version of original image is successful print, col. 2, lines 4-15).

However, Moscato fails to teach and/or suggest a prohibition of additional printed version from being produced if said output is signified to be a successful print.

Manchala, in the same field of endeavor for printing, teaches a prohibition of additional printed version from being produced if said output is signified to be a successful print (reprinting is prohibited if the first printed check is successful printed, col. 2, lines 30 to col. 3, lines 35 and col. 5, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify printing system of Moscato to include a prohibition unit/flag to prevent printing of additional copy of successful printed image as taught by Manchala because of a following reason: (•) to prevent unauthorized reprinting of additional checks (col. 3, lines 15-18 and lines 62-63); (•) to prohibit reprinting of an additional documents (e.g. movie tickets, checks, stamps, and etc) that users/operators are not entitled to.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Moscato with Manchala to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

Regarding claim 26, Manchala further teaches the invention 21 further including means for detecting a print restriction (no-print restriction flag, col. 3, lines 30-35) with respect to said first image.

Regarding claim 27, Manchala further teaches the invention of claim 26 further including means responsive to said print restriction and said third means for disabling a second print of (disabling reprinting, col. 3, lines 60-65) said document.

Regarding claim 28, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 21 wherein said first image is obtained from a network (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 29, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 28 wherein said network is the Internet (providing images via Internet is well known).

Regarding claims 30-31, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 30 wherein said third means include software stored on a computer readable medium (comparison device 12, fig. 1, and obviously, comparison device 12 includes a computer instruction program for comparing original image with printed image, for example, OCR software).

Regarding claims 32-33, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 30 wherein said third means includes means for converting said first image to text (comparison device 12, fig. 1, and obviously, comparison device 12 includes a computer instruction program for comparing original image with printed image, for example, OCR software).

Regarding claim 34, Moscato further teaches the invention of claim 33 wherein said third means includes means for comparing the text representing said first image to said text representing said second image (OCR software for comparing texts are well known and widely available).

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Regarding claim 35: Claim 35 is a method that corresponds to the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1; therefore, claim 35 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 1 above.

Claims 6-9 & 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moscato and Manchala as described in claims 1-5, and 21 above, and in view of Schwenk et al (6590995).

Regarding claims 6 & 22, combinations of Moscato and Manchala do not expressly disclose a verification system includes means for adding a fingerprint to an image.

Schwenk, in the same field of endeavor for securing documents, teaches a verifying includes means for adding a fingerprint to a digital image (adding a digital fingerprint into a digital document, abstract, col.1, lines 20-25 and col. 2, lines 3-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify print system of Moscato and Manchala to include a means for adding a fingerprint to an image as per teachings of Schwenk because of a following reason: (●) to add more security to the confidential documents by incorporating fingerprints onto the documents as being processed by Moscato.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Moscato and Manchala with Schwenk to obtain the invention as specified in claims 6 & 22.

Regarding claims 7 & 23, Bolle further teaches means for printing said fingerprint on said document (documents with fingerprint, col. 5, lines 18-28).

Regarding claims 8 & 24, Bolle further teaches a scanner is adapted to scan said fingerprint and provide a fingerprint output signal in response thereto (scanner 765, fig. 7).

Regarding claims 9 & 25, combinations of Moscato, Manchala and Schwenk teaches disabling said printer (disabling a printer is taught by Manchala) when said fingerprint of said printed version is not detected in an image that is purported to be a scanned copy of said printed version (incorporating a fingerprint into a document prevents hackers/unauthorized users from

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duplicating unauthorized copies of confidential/protected documents as taught by Schwenk, abstract, and col. 2, lines3-67).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-10, filed 10/24/05 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 21, and 35 under 102(e) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art references due to newly added limitations/features as cited in claims 1, 21, and 35.

Applicant's arguments, see page 6, filed 10/24/05, with respect to 13 & 28 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 13 & 28 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

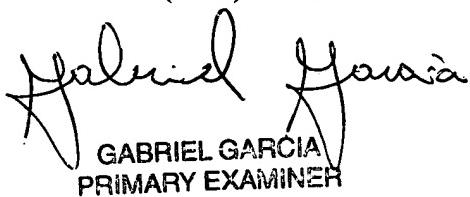
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

TLP


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER